



2023 Winter Po'aono Pickleball League Handbook

Aloha! We're excited that you joined PO'AONO (which means Saturday in Hawaiian) Pickleball League!!! We can't wait to get you on the court for some fun and friendly competition. Each member is expected to understand and agree to the rules and guidelines set forth in this handbook.

Location

Diamond Head Tennis Center, Court #8 & 9
3908 Paki Ave, Honolulu, HI 96815

Schedule – Weekly Saturday's

Season: Begins January 21, 2023 and will run approximately 5-6 weeks plus an optional day for a playoff.

Rainouts/Cancellations:

In the event of a rainout/cancellation, teams have 2 weeks to makeup matches before a match is considered forfeited. Team Captains will schedule their own makeup matches.

Match Start Time

2:00pm-4:30pm for 18+ year old/4.0-4.5
4:30pm-6:30pm for 18+ year old/3.5-4.0

Events & Match

A team match is defined by two teams playing (5) events:

- Women's Singles
- Men's Singles
- Mixed Doubles
- Women's Doubles
- Men's Doubles

Format

Round-robin for 6 or fewer teams. Pool play for 8 teams.

Best 2 out of 3 games per event. A game is complete when one of the teams wins 11 points (NO win by 2 points). If there is no more time to complete an event, the ending score for the last game gets recorded. A third game is ONLY played as a tie-breaker. *For Doubles, no substitutions allowed.*

For Singles, we will allow only 1 substitution for the remainder of a game. The player who is substituted out may not return until Game 2 and 3. The same player(s) who played in Game 1 must play Game 3.

Starting the Match

1. **Exchange Lineups:** Teams will be assigned as Home or Visitor for each match, and will be listed on the schedule. Home and Visitor Team Captains or team member exchange lineups at least 10-15 minutes prior to the designated start time for each level. Once lineups are exchanged, no changes to the lineups may be made. Please prepare your lineup BEFORE match day.

Games are forfeited when players are not ready to play after 5 minutes from the start time or 5 minutes of the last game played. The suggested order of play is Singles, Mixed, Men's then Women's. However, so long as Team Captains agree, the order of play can change due to tardiness, the need to leave early and/or general availability.

Forfeited games are automatically scored with 11 points to the team ready to play and 0 points to the team which forfeited.

2. **Serve, Receive, Side or Defer:**

Game 1: The Home Team gets to make ONE decision before every game. They can choose to either serve or receive; pick a side of the court to start on; or defer the decision to the Visitor Team.

Game 2: Teams switch sides, serve begins with the team which did not start serving in Game 1.

Game 3: This is ONLY played as a tie-breaker if each team has won a game. Teams switch sides and serve begins with the team which started serving in Game 1. At 6 points, both teams switch sides with players resuming the same court position before switching sides.

3. **Time Outs:** Players NOT the Team Captain may ask for a
 - a. ONE 1 minute time out for each team per game
 - b. TWO 1 minute time outs for Singles only per game
 - c. 5 minute time out between games
4. **Match balls:** Each team brings 1 new match ball for a total of 2 balls used for all 3 events. The WINNING TEAM of the match gets to take home the match balls, however many are remaining.

Skill Level

Refer to [USA Pickleball's Definition of Player Skill Rating](#)

Teams

Team members must be 18+ years old by the beginning of the season. A team must have between 6-8 members, including a team captain. A team must have a minimum of 2 men and 2 women.

Registration Deadline

All team members must be registered by the deadline, midnight, Wednesday, January 18. By registering, players commit to playing for the entire season and responsible for making every effort to be available for as many matches as required of the team.

Substitutes

We will allow teams to substitute for match play in the following order, where games and points played by the substitute ***are eligible and will count towards the team's match score***.

1. First, at the discretion of the League Coordinator, a designated League Substitute may take the place of a player if a team is short a player due to medical reasons, and unforeseen circumstances.
2. Second, if a designated League Substitute is not available or already playing, a team may use a female player in men's doubles.
3. Lastly, a team may seek to draft another member from a team that has a player to spare, providing the team captain and player agrees to the substitute.

Team Captain's Role

What are the responsibilities as a Team Captain? First and foremost, you're your team's most favorite fan and cheerleader. You're there to advocate for them, build bridges among team members and other teams. Each and every player is on their own pickleball journey, and needs support. You're their coach, time keeper, and helper.

Other responsibilities include creating and exchanging match lineups; bringing match balls to the courts; submitting match scores; ensuring your team is ready to play; and serve as the main point of contact with the League Coordinator.

While we prefer Team Captains attend all matches, we understand that is not always possible. If the Team Captain is unable to attend a match, it is the Team Captain's responsibility to select a substitute.

Team Captains are required to attend the season's Team Captains Meeting usually scheduled on the Sunday prior to the start of the league.

Player Code of Conduct: Play with Aloha

Players will follow the [USA Pickleball and IFP Official 2023 Rulebook](#). "Play with Aloha" is expected from every player. Team captains will settle disagreements immediately on match days. Unresolved disagreements shall be immediately brought to the attention of the League Coordinator. The League Coordinator may remove any player from the league if a player is not conducting him/herself according to the rulebook. Subsequently, no refund for league fee will be granted.

Coaching/Line Calls

Team Captains, teammates, and spectators should refrain from "coaching", that being talking any type of strategy once gameplay starts. The only ones that can talk strategy are the teammates on the court as

they move to their service/receive positions, during a “dead ball.” And even in this manner, they should not cause a delay of game by talking strategy. *Teams are to do their best to abide by the 10 second service rule, even without a referee or overseer present. This is good practice for actual tournament situations.

Note: Breaks between events should be no longer than 5 minutes, during this time teams may talk strategy going into the next event or warm up. Any time delay will affect the last doubles playing. Once game play starts, captains and teammates may simply cheer along with other spectators.

If line calls become an issue, the captain from each team or a non-playing team member from each side may stand on the side lines closest to the net to call lines.

Checkout this excellent resource by USA Pickleball on basic rules, strategies, and other great tips like judging a ball “in” or “out” at [How to Play Pickleball | Pickleball Rules and Strategies | USA Pickleball](#)

Spectators

Visiting and Home teams will each have a designated side. When looking at the courts from the court entrance (parking lot), HOME (right) and VISITOR (left).

If there is not enough space on your side of the court for all spectators, Team Captain (or designated team lead for that week) will need to ask certain spectators to go outside the court area for their respective teams. In the very least, spectators must follow City and County of Honolulu rules regarding spectators due to COVID-19. Refer to the latest Mayor’s orders at [Proclamations, Orders, and Rules re:COVID-19 \(honolulu.gov\)](#)

Spectators and teams should be quiet during play as much as possible (we recognize sometimes people get excited during a good play, don't we all) with the bulk of applause and cheering coming after the play is finished. Shouts of OUT, WIDE, LONG, etc, should come from the players on the court. If an opposing player complains of distraction, they may bring it to the opposing captain’s attention, and the captain will assess a warning (no replay of point, unless the opposing captain deems that the distraction affected the point/play in their favor). If there is a second complaint, the captain will be notified and the individual will be asked to leave the court for the remainder of the game. It does not need to be the same individual, but once a warning is assessed all following complaints will lead to dismissals for the remainder of the game. Maximum of four warnings before all spectators for both sides are asked to leave (by both captains/team leads for that week) for the remainder of the game.

We are all out there to have fun and enjoy the atmosphere of solid competition. “Play with Aloha” both on and off the courts.

Reporting of Scores

Before leaving the court, Team Captains completes score sheets and signs both copies. The WINNING team must email OR text the score sheet to the designated league coordinator. Score sheets will only be accepted if both captains sign. Report scores electronically within 48 hours from match day. Forfeited games are recorded as “0.” Please write legibly team members names and scores.

End of the season team standings will be calculated in the following order:

1. Total TEAM MATCH wins
2. Total GAMES won
3. Total POINTS won

Playoff

After all round-robin play is complete, ALL teams are invited to play in the playoff with the *semi-finals* played as follows: Team #1 vs Team #4 and Team #2 vs Team #3. Placement is determined from team standings total matches won, if there is a tie then number of games won will break the tie, if none of the above resolve the tie, then the tie shall be resolved by point differential. If there are more than four teams in the season, the remaining teams will play each other based upon the end-of-the season standings.

For the *finals*, the winners play for Gold and Silver, and the losers play for Bronze.

**Players must play 2 twice in a season (two Saturday's) to be eligible to play in the playoff.

Equipment

Portable nets and Franklin X-40 balls will be provided by OPA. Team Captains will receive new match balls at the beginning of the season.

Each Team Captain is responsible for bringing (1) match ball, and for the setup (Home teams) and breakdown (last playing teams) of nets as noted on the league schedule. Nets are located in the closet. Please take extra care with these community nets when setting up and breaking down. Team Captains are required to keep lock combinations confidential and to properly store all nets prior to leaving DHTC.

Cancelation/Withdrawals

A full refund will be granted for cancelations/withdrawals prior to the start of the season. We apologize, but no refunds once the season is underway unless for medical reasons or injury.

By signing below, I agree to follow the rules and guidelines set forth in this playbook by Oahu Pickleball Association's Po'aono Pickleball League. Please keep this signature page.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Team Name: _____